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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/892,345	06/26/2001	Gregory Carlson	7651/1612	3543
7590	03/08/2004		EXAMINER	
Novartis Corporation Corporate intellectual Property One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430 East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080				SERGENT, RABON A
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1711		

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/892,345	Applicant(s) CARLSON ET AL.
	Examiner Rabon Sergent	Art Unit 1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11,46,55 and 56 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 8-11 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3,5,7,46,55 and 56 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4 and 6 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: .

1. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: Antecedence has not been provided for the molar ratio set forth within claim 2 (the specification discloses a ratio of 0.9-1.1:1.8-3.3:1.8-3.3) and the subject matter of claims 55 and 56.
2. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 46, 55, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Firstly, with respect to claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 46, applicants have failed to provide enablement for the production of hydroxyl or amine terminated prepolymers that will yield hydrogels when reacted with water; however, claims 1 and 46 allow for this permutation and claims 3, 5, and 7 require that the prepolymer be hydroxyl terminated, in view of the claimed ratio.

Secondly, with respect to claims 55 and 56, applicants have provided no enablement for production of the precursors where L is hydrogen and Q is carboxylic acid or hydrogen.

3. Claims 2, 3, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The sequence of the species for the ratio within claims 3 and 5 causes the prepolymer to be hydroxyl terminated. The sequence of species for (a), (b), and (c), as claimed within claims 3 and 5 and as disclosed within lines 1-4 of page 3 of the specification, fails to correspond to the disclosure within lines 6-11 of page 9 of the specification. While the numerical values of the ratio within the claims and the specification agree, the sequence of the species for the claims and at page 3 fails to agree with the sequence of the species at page 9. Specifically, the claims and page 3 specify triol:diisocyanate:diol; however, page 9 specifies triol:diol:diisocyanate. Only the disclosure at page 9 will yield isocyanate terminated prepolymers.

Similarly, the sequence of species within claim 2 fails to correspond to the sequence of species set forth at page 9, lines 11-16.

4. Claims 4 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Rabon Sergent at telephone number (571) 272-1079.


RABON SERGENT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

R. Sergent

February 23, 2004